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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Rev. Dr. Steven Robert Shoemaker, who passed away on October 10, 2016 at the age of 73; and

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WHEREAS, Steven Shoemaker was born and raised in Urbana; he played trombone and basketball at Urbana High School and attended Wheaton College, where he participated in pranks, such as padlocking the chapel doors before a service; after becoming more serious about his studies, he earned a Master of Divinity degree and Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1969 from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago; he later earned a Ph.D. in religion from Duke University in 1979; and

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WHEREAS, Steven Shoemaker served as pastor at Pittsboro and Mount Vernon Springs Presbyterian churches in Pittsboro, North Carolina; he served as campus pastor at North Carolina State University and as pastor at McKinley Presbyterian Church in Champaign; he finished his career as director of the University YMCA at the University of Illinois; he also taught one course a semester in religious studies at either Parkland College or the University of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Steven Shoemaker served as chair of the Committee for the Homeless, co-chair of the Men's Emergency Shelter

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1 Steering Committee, member of the Dr. Martin Luther King
2 Committee, member of the Muslim Committee, and member of the
3 Champaign County Board, the United Way Board, and the local
4 ACLU Board; he was also an active Urbana Rotary Club member
5 since 1982 and acted as president in 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, Steven Shoemaker had a passion for writing,
7 particularly poetry; he was nominated to be Illinois Poet
8 Laureate in 2003 and was published in a plethora of journals
9 ranging from Christian ministry to Judaism; after his cancer
10 diagnosis, he published his first book, titled "A Sin A Week",
11 and received thousands of Likes for poems posted through social
12 media; he also reached out to the community through his weekly
13 radio program, "Keepin' The Faith", on WILL AM 580, which
14 provided interviews and discussions highlighting relevant
15 social topics; and

16 WHEREAS, Steven Shoemaker donated his rich bass voice to
17 various choirs and was a member of the Real Fire band; he also
18 donated his time to be an integral part in the lives of others
19 as he joined couples in marriage, performed funerals, and
20 provided counseling and support, while never accepting
21 payment; and

22 WHEREAS, Steven Shoemaker enjoyed spending time with his
23 family and taking his children on various trips to baseball

1 games, museums, and other places; and

2 WHEREAS, Steven Shoemaker is survived by his wonderful wife
3 of 51 years, Nadja; his children, Daniel (Rachael) and Marla
4 (Craig); and his grandchildren, Carter and Grace; therefore, be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
8 family and friends, mourn the passing of Rev. Dr. Steven Robert
9 Shoemaker; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Steven Shoemaker as an expression of
12 our sympathy.